MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to take early steps to effect the registry?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Government are pushing on in the matter.

P. W. D. Section Officer at Nedumangad.

306. * MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): With reference to the statement of mine at the time of the general discussion of the budget for 1112 M. E., published at page 40 Vol. VIII, No. 2 of the printed Proceedings of the Assembly, about the dereliction of duty on the part of the P. W. D. Section Officer, Nedumangad, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what action has been taken about the conduct of the P.W.D. Section Officer in question; and

(*b*) whether they are aware that he is not attending even now to the maintenance works of the branch roads in the taluk?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Chief Engineer has reported that no action has been taken as none was found necessary.

(*b*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know why no action was found necessary against the P. W. D. section officer, at Nedumangad?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer found on enquiry that the allegations made were groundless.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer has at any time inspected the roads and by-roads in the Nedumangad taluk, after he assumed charge?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I do not know. But in reply to another question the member had been told that the Chief Engineer, the Division Officer and the Sub-division Officer have visited the locality.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): My question is whether the Chief Engineer, at any time, inspected the roads in the Nedumangad taluk?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He has.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government will be pleased to consult the Tahsildar of Nedumangad as well as the other executive officers in the place, and ascertain from them whether the roads in the Nedumangad taluk are being properly maintained?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer is satisfied that the roads are maintained in as good a condition as possible with the grant available.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is it by an astrological calculation or by actual experience after inspection of the roads that he is so satisfied?

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MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He has got the reports of the Division Officer and the Sub-division Officer. He knows the length of the roads. In regard to the question of ascertaining the condition of the roads from the other executive officers of the locality, I may at once tell the member that the Government are not prepared to do any such thing.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government will be prepared to make the necessary investigation on the statements that I have made, and I do make now also, that the roads in the taluk are not at all maintained by the Section Officer there?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The matter has already been enquired into.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the Division Officer and the Sub-Division Officer are actually supporting the P. W. D. Section Officer there for reasons that are unholy?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I understand that the Sub-Division Officer wrote to the member asking him to be present for a joint inspection of the roads with the Section Officer, but the member did not send a reply for about three weeks. The Sub-Division Officer again wrote to the member suggesting three dates for the joint inspection. None of them was convenient for the member. So, it was thought that the member was not in a mood to conduct any joint inspection. So, the Sub-Division Officer made the inspection himself.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Does the honourable member know that, when the Sub-Division Officer wrote to me fixing a date for joint inspection, I was engaged in Assembly work?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The dates suggested by the honourable member himself were days on which the Section Officer was on casual leave.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Are the Government aware that the honourable member for Nedumangad suggested various dates to the Sub-Division Officer, to the Division Officer and to the Chief Engineer to convince them that the roads were not properly maintained?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Are the Government aware that the honourable member for Nedumangad has addressed a letter to the Government, as well as to the Chief Engineer, pointing out the suspicious conduct of the Sub-Division Officer and of the Section Officer in not having accepted my challenge?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The Government have received those letters.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know what action has been taken on them?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It was upon those letters that an enquiry was made.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Are the Government aware that the Chief Engineer has not made any personal inspection of the roads even after such complaint ?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): He asked the Division Officer to make enquiries.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the reason why the Chief Engineer is not prepared to satisfy himself by a personal inspection of these roads ?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Evidently because the complaint relates to the maintenance of a few cart roads in the Nedumangad taluk, the Chief Engineer did not consider it necessary that he should himself go to the spot.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Are the Government aware that the amount allotted for the maintenance of the roads in the Nedumangad taluk is being divided among the P. W. D. officers there, such as the Section Officer and the Sub-Division Officer, without utilising it for the purpose for which it is intended ?

PRESIDENT : I presume the honourable member has made the allegation in his representation to Government on this matter ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Then, that will be enquired into.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): One question more. May I know how the Government are going to satisfy themselves that the Section Officer is not utilising the funds for the purpose for which they are intended ?

PRESIDENT : Question No. 307.

Pay-ward in the Kottayam District Hospital.

307. *MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a pay-ward at present in the Kottayam District Hospital ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have at any time received any representation from the public of Kottayam regarding the need for a pay-ward being attached to the District Hospital at Kottayam ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No such representation was received. The Municipal Council at Kottayam had an idea of constructing a pay-ward in the premises of the District Hospital, Kottayam, for the use of well-to-do patients and Government have sanctioned the construction of the same, subject to certain conditions.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*) : With reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know whether pay-wards were attached to other hospitals only after the people demanded them ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : Generally, that is the case.

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